

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9 and 11-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 25 are amended and claim 33 is added without introduction of new matter. Support for claims 1-9, 24, and 33 is self-evident or evident from the discussion below.

Claims 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As claims 31 and 32 are canceled by this Amendment, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,872,895 to Cochran. Claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of now canceled claim 10, and claims 2, 3, 6-8, and 28 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,408,231 to Bushaw. As claim 31 is canceled by this Amendment, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 33 is added by this Amendment. Non-limiting support is provided by Applicant's disclosure, U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0052561, at para. 19. Claim 33 is allowable at least in view of its dependence upon independent base claim 1.

As all outstanding issues are addressed by this response to the outstanding Office Action, favorable reconsideration and allowance are solicited. If, however, there are remaining issues which can be addressed by a discussion with Applicant's representative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney, Steven Dickey, at (202) 420-4756. Further, if there are any additional charges in connection with this filing, the Examiner is respectfully requested and authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1073 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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